Morphophonemic Rules

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Morphophonemic Rules

→ rules that account for alternations among allomorphs.

- Allomorphs are variant forms of a morpheme
- A morpheme is the smallest unit of a language that carries information about meaning or function.
- A word can be simple or complex.
  - A simple word consists of one morpheme
  - A complex word consists of more than one morpheme

In English

- Plural
- Past
- Negative prefix in-
- Other

Plural

- {PLURAL} ⇒ [s], if the stem ends in a voiceless phoneme
- {PLURAL} ⇒ [z], if the stem ends in a voiced phoneme
- {PLURAL} ⇒ [ɪz], if the stem ends in a sibilant phoneme

- Because morphemes such as {PLURAL} has different pronunciation, we say that a morpheme may have allomorphs. The {PLURAL} morpheme has the allomorphs /s/, /z/, /ɪz/.

A	B	C	D
cab	cap	bus	child
bag	back	buzz	mouse
love	cuff	bush	sheep

Past

- {PAST} ⇒ [t], if the stem ends in a voiceless phoneme
- {PAST} ⇒ [d], if the stem ends in a voiced phoneme
- {PAST} ⇒ [ɪd], if the stem ends in a /t/ or /d/ phoneme

A	B	C	D
grab	reap	state	is
hug	kiss	raid	sing
love	wish		have

Negative Prefix *in-*

- {in-} ⇒ [ɪn], before vowel and alveolar phonemes

   eg. inactive, independent
- {in-} ⇒ [ɪm], before bilabial phonemes

   eg. impossible, immoral
- {in-} ⇒ [ɪŋ], before velar phonemes

   eg. incapable, incomplete

Other constraints

- **Delete a /g/ when it occurs before a final nasal consonant**

  A   B
  sign   [saɪn]   signature   [sɪgnetʃə(r)]
  paradigm   [pærədaɪm]   paradigmatic [pærədɪgmætɪk]

- **Delete a word final /b/ when it occurs after an /m/**

  A   B
  bomb   [bɒm]   bombardier   [bɒmbədɪə(r)]
  crumb   [krʌm]   crumble   [krʌmbl]